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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/661,223	09/13/2000	Futoshi Kaibuki	450100-02710	7775

20999 7590 08/17/2004

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG  
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.  
NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER
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HUYNH, KIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2112

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/661,223

Applicant(s)

KAIBUKI, FUTOSHI

Examiner

Kim T. Huynh

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6,9-13,15-19,21,24-26,28 and 30-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6,9-13,15-19,21,24-26,28 and 30-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,3,6, 9-13, 15-19, 21, 24-26, 28, 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludtke et al. (Pub. No US 20030210252) in view of Washino (US Patent 6,370,198)

As per claims 1, 19, Ludtke discloses an electronic apparatus for processing audio/video data, comprising:

- A data processing subunit, included within said electronic apparatus, for receiving and processing audio/video input data; [0039], [0015]
- A functional block, included within said data processing subunit, operative as terminating functional block to terminate the data processed by said data processing subunit; [0018]
- A memory for storing information pertaining to said data processing subunit and said functional block, wherein the information stored in said memory is accessible by an external electronic apparatus connected to said electronic apparatus via a serial data bus; and [0014],[0018],[0039]

- Connection means for connecting said electronic apparatus and said external electronic apparatus via said serial data bus. [0014]

Ludtke discloses all the limitations as above except by transforming the data to an image signal. However, Washino discloses interface unit operative to convert the video program in the input format into an output signal representative of formatted image, and output the signal to an attached display device. (col.4, lines 27-40)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Washino's teaching into Ludtke's system so as to provide capabilities of high performance personal computer or workstation. (col.4, lines 1-6)

As per claims 3, 21, 28, Ludtke discloses wherein the information stored in said memory indicates that said functional block terminates data received by the data processing subunit.[0018]

As per claim 6, Ludtke discloses wherein said data processing subunit further comprises another functional block for performing said input data processing and supplying said processed data to said functional block operative as a terminating functional block.[0018]

As per claim 9, Ludtke discloses wherein said memory has a hierarchical structure.

As per claim 10, Ludtke discloses wherein said data is video data and said functional block is a video display means that terminates said video data

by converting the processed data into a video signal and displaying video corresponding thereto. [0007-0009]

As per claim 11, Ludtke discloses wherein said video display means is a display. [0040]

As per claim 12, Ludtke discloses wherein said video display means is a printer.

As per claim 13, Ludtke discloses wherein said data is audio data and said functional block is an audio output means that terminates said audio data by converting it into sound corresponding thereto. [0007]

As per claims 15, 24, 30, 33, Ludtke discloses wherein said information pertaining to said functional block stored within said memory includes information concerning virtual plug information of said functional block. [0040]

As per claims 16, 25, 31, Ludtke discloses the electronic further comprising another functional block for processing said data and supplying said processed data to said functional block operative as a terminating functional block, and said memory further storing information concerning virtual plug information of said another functional block, wherein all of said virtual plug information is accessible by an external apparatus connected to said electronic apparatus via said serial data bus. [0040]

As per claim 17, Ludtke discloses wherein said serial data bus performs data communication in accordance with the IEEE-1394 standard. [0040]

As per claim 18, Ludtke discloses wherein said electronic apparatus is a digital television receiver. [0040]

As per claims 26, 32, Ludtke discloses a system having a plurality of electronic apparatuses connected via a serial data bus to enable transmission of data among said apparatuses, comprising:

- A data transmitting apparatus for transmitting audio/video data over said serial data bus; [0039], [0018]
- A data receiving apparatus for receiving the audio/video data transmitted by said serial data transmitting apparatus over said data bus; [0018] Wherein said data receiving apparatus comprises:
  - A data processing subunit, included within said receiving apparatus, for processing said received audio/video data; [0039]
  - A functional block, included within said data processing subunit, operative as a terminating functional block to terminate the data processed by said data processing subunit; and [0018]
- A memory for storing information pertaining to said data processing subunit and said functional block, wherein the information stored in said memory is accessible by an external electronic apparatus connected to said electronic apparatus via said serial data bus. [0039], [0014], [0018]

Ludtke discloses all the limitations as above except transforming the data to an image signal. However, Washino discloses interface unit operative to convert the video program in

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the input format into an output signal representative of formatted image, and output the signal to an attached display device. (col.4, lines 27-40)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Washino's teaching into Ludtke's system so as to provide capabilities of high performance personal computer or workstation. (col.4, lines 1-6)

### ***Response to Amendment***

3. Applicant's amendment filed on 5/14/04 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

a. In response to applicant's argument that Ludtke's does not disclose or suggest transforming the data to an image signal. However, Washino discloses interface unit operative to convert the video program in the input format into an output signal representative of formatted image, and output the signal to an attached display device. (col.4, lines 27-40)

Thus, the prior art teaches the invention as claimed and the amended claims do not distinguish over the prior art as applied.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).



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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

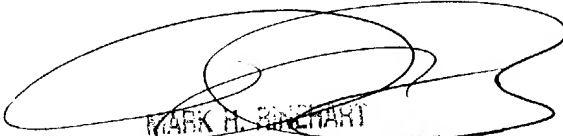
5. *Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM-6:30PM.*

*If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.*

*Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.*

Kim Huynh

August 7, 2004



MARK H. RINEHART  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100